

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

9 MAY 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Cuba

a. Cuban pilots are now going into advanced training in MIG-21's.

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d. Cuba's cumulative trade debt to the USSR totaled \$275 million as of early April. The USSR agreed to defer repayment of this debt during the recently concluded trade negotiations.

2. Laos

a. Kong Le is in Vientiane, possible to work out the details of his plan for an offensive in the Plaine des Jarres using neutralist, Lao army, and Meo forces.

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b. The Pathet Lao have meanwhile been reinforcing and resupplying their own positions, and are conducting minor mopping-up actions against Meo outposts.

c. The rains are beginning. They may hamper the movement of heavy equipment and the use of some airfields, but are not likely to obstruct the kind of operations both sides are preparing for in the Plaine.

d. Souphannouvong has refused to attend the Council of Ministers meeting in Luang Prabang, which Souvanna had earlier cast as a test of Pathet Lao willingness to continue the tripartite coalition government. He has called instead for more talks at his headquarters at Khang Khay.

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e. [redacted]

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[redacted] heavy North Vietnamese
convoy activity in southern Laos

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f. This may presage a strengthening of the North Vietnamese-Pathet Lao military position in the area or new infiltrations into South Vietnam through Laos--or both.

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3. Syria

a. A showdown may be approaching.

b. Army units are beginning to align themselves with the opposing Baathist and Nasirist political groups and army officers cashiered by the pro-Baathist command are said to be dickering with units outside Damascus, possibly for a march on the capital.

c. Broadcasts from Cairo are stirring up emotions. Force was required yesterday to put down demonstrations in Damascus and Aleppo. More have been reported today.

4. Haiti-Dominican Republic

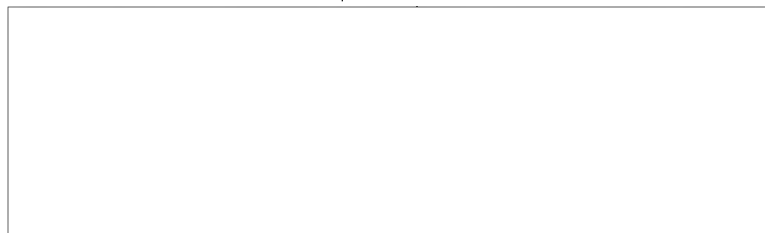
a. The two countries are eyeing each other uneasily while the OAS and the UN talk over the affair.

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c. The Duvalier regime is pressing its hunt for Clement Barbot.

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NOTE

- A. Cuba The Transbalt may have carried ammunition in its cargo. Photography [] showed a convoy of trucks, similar to those seen unloading the vessel, at a munitions storage site just southeast of Havana. [] some "munitions" had been moved from the Transbalt to another storage site a few miles further from Havana.
- B. USSR Our data indicates that investment in Soviet agriculture in 1962 increased by 17 percent--the largest such increment noted since 1955. This was presumably at the expense of heavy industry.
- C. USSR Marshal Zhukov's star may not be rising after all. An April issue of the military's political journal listed him among those responsible for Soviet unreadiness in 1941.
- D. USSR The Soviet Mars probe--launched in December and due to reach the vicinity of Mars on 19 June--will be wide of the mark. At a conference in March, a Soviet astronomer let slip the word that it would come no closer than 105,000 nm. An attempt to correct its path in mid-course had failed.

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- F. Colombia A demonstration being organized in support of former dictator General Rojas Pinilla on 10 May in Bogota may attract as many as 30,000 participants. Government authorities fear that Colombian communists may try to create trouble and are taking extra precautions to prevent disorders.
- G. Communist China-UK Consul general Green in Hong Kong has heard that the Chinese and Shell Oil are cooking up a deal--"very big and moving very fast." China imports 30 percent of its oil, virtually all from the USSR, but may now be seeking alternate sources of supply. Even though foreign exchange reserves are slim, Peiping could pay cash for essential oil imports.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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